



INDIANA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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2005 Annual Report of the Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC)

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Implemented Rural Development Grant Program

IRDC awarded more than \$6.2 million in rural development grant dollars to nearly 60 projects aimed at improving the quality of life in Indiana's rural communities, promoting regional partnering among rural service provider organizations, and supporting local rural economic development initiatives. The grants dollars funded a variety of projects, including the creation of local revolving loan funds, business incubators, and leadership programs. A complete listing of the grant recipients begins on page three of this report.

Approved 2005-06 Work Plan

IRDC recently approved its 2005-06 Work Plan emphasizing the importance of community visits, regional rural partnerships, the next federal Farm Bill and improving awareness of the council and its rural partners. The work plan is an extension of the Rural Economic Development Study (REDS) developed in 2002. The REDS report provides a strategic framework to energize the Council's outreach and assistance to rural Indiana communities by better leveraging the assets of rural partners. As the next step in developing the work plan, the IRDC will contact organizations, institutions, agencies and businesses working in the "rural" arena to better understand the mission and goals of these organizations.

Strengthening Partnerships in Annual Conferences Planning

IRDC's 2004 annual conference was in partnership with the Indiana Leadership Association entitled "Leadership with a Purpose: Building Strong Communities and Growing Local Economies". This conference was based on the Kellogg Leadership Studies Project working paper "Leadership in the 21st Century", and highlighted the leadership qualities our communities need to thrive amidst ever-present change.

IRDC will continue the tradition of co-sponsoring with key partners in the State; our 2005 Annual Conference (December 8 and 9) will be a joint conference with Indiana Association of Regional Councils. The three main themes of this conference will be Regional Partnerships, Rural Entrepreneurship, and Quality of Life/Amenities.

Creation of the Indiana Office of Rural Affairs

The Office of Rural Affairs (ORA) was established by the 2005 General Assembly at the request of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. For the first time in Indiana, small cities, towns and rural counties have an agency devoted to their needs. A package of legislative initiatives created the ORA, the new Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. IRDC works alongside the ORA and serves as the rural policy advisory group to Lt. Governor Skillman, who also serves as the state's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Entrepreneurship Development System

IRDC has formed a task force to identify solutions, impediments, and pursue policies that encourage rural entrepreneurship. The task force determined that more effective marketing of the programs is critical to awareness and effectiveness. IRDC, along with Purdue University's Center for Regional Development and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, hosted an interactive session on August 30 to discuss Kellogg's Rural Entrepreneurial Development System Model. The Kellogg Model believes, "*an effective system is comprehensive, flexible, culturally- sensitive, integrated, and requires service providers to collaborate rather than operate independently or in isolation.*" The task force is now taking steps to formalize its efforts to create an entrepreneurial culture for rural communities.

Indiana Rural Strategy

The Office of Rural Affairs and IRDC initiated the development of an Indiana Rural Strategy to provide a framework for future efforts by all rural partners to better serve Indiana's communities. The Strategy is an update of the REDS report published in October 2002. From the completed strategy, key partners can work across traditional sectors to cultivate a rural spirit through rural entrepreneurship, regional partnering, quality-of-life services, education/workforce development, and communications and marketing.

Outreach

IRDC has re-instituted its electronic newsletter, Connecting the Dots, to keep its rural partners aware of news, issues and programs affecting rural communities. In addition, the organization has initiated discussions about improving its website to better serve its audiences.

IRDC's staff and council members continue to participate in numerous meetings and events of rural communities and partner organizations. They are planning to visit the Council's grant recipients to identify rural needs and foster innovative solutions for Indiana's rural communities.

IRDC continues to play an active role in the National Rural Development Partnership, the national collaboration of state rural development councils and federal agencies with rural-focused services.

Rural Development Action Program

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Name of Project Proposal</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount Funded</u>
Benton Community Foundation	Benton County 2025:Beyond Today and Tomorrow	Benton	64,411
North Adams Community School Corp.	Learning for a successful Life Initiative	Adams	99,985
Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.	A Canal Boat for Delphi	Carroll	57,375
City of Charlestown	Charlestown High Speed Wireless Broadband Network Project	Clark	200,000
Jeffersonville Main Street Inc.	Rural and Urban Sustainability	Clark	142,850
Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc.	Illuminating Indiana's Historical African American Settlements through heritage tourism	Clark	50,000
Starlight Visitors Association., Inc.	Indiana Uplands Grape growers cooperative and wine trail.	Clark	60,000
City of Aurora	Aurora Riverfront Redevelopment	Dearborn	30,000
Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission	Regional GIS Orthophotography and Town Base Mapping	Dubois	200,000
Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.	Cottage Industry Development Program	Elkhart	90,400
Community Education Coalition	Robo Lab	Fayette	50,000
Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.	Southwestern Indiana Intermodal Freight Terminal	Gibson	146,000
Grant County Economic Growth Council	Grant County Economic Growth Council Revolving Loan Fund	Grant	90,400
City of Linton	Linton Technology Feasibility Study	Greene	22,500
Harrison County Economic Development Corp.	Harrison County Revolving Loan Fund	Harrison	90,400
Indiana Agriculture Leadership Institute	Rural Elected Official Leadership Development Program	Hendricks	64,500
Henry County Redevelopment Corp.	Acquisition of Land for Intermodal Logistics Park	Henry	150,000
Huntington County United Economic Development Corp.	Huntington County Resource Center for Entrepreneurs	Huntington	100,000
East Central Indiana Development	Regional Telecommunication Project	Jay	200,000
City of Madison Board of Aviation Commissioners	Commercial Hanger Madison Municipal Airport	Jefferson	150,000
City of Madison Farmers' Market	Rejuvenate Farmers' Market	Jefferson	7,620

Madison Area Chamber of Commerce	Food Venture	Jefferson	100,000
River Valley Resources, Inc.	Project GOLD (Growing Opportunities through Leadership Development)	Jefferson	176,000
Southern IN SBDC	Hire Special Food Business Advisor for kitchen users	Jefferson	100,000
Kosciusko Development Inc.	Kosciusko Development Inc. Low-Interest revolving loans for small business	Kosciusko	90,400
City of Mitchell	Newco-Start-Up Loan - EDLP	Lawrence	109,000
Indiana Association. Of Cities and Towns Foundation	Indiana Downtown	Marion	30,000
Indiana Business Modernization & Technology Corp.	Rural Concierge Concept	Marion	92,880
Indiana FFA Organization	Growing Rural Indiana Through Agricultural Education and workforce development.	Marion	100,000
Indiana Livestock Alliance (IN Beef Cattle Association)	Scale Appropriate Value-Added Marketing Resource	Marion	18,750
Indiana Livestock Alliance (IN Beef Cattle Association)	Education of Public Officials through strategic partnerships	Marion	22,500
City of Peru, Miami County, Indiana	Miami County Incubator Feasibility Study	Miami	18,750
South Central Indiana Rural Electric Member Corp.	Broadband Over Powerline (BPL)	Morgan	200,000
Region III-A Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission	Value-added Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund	Noble	90,400
Parke County Redevelopment Commission	Parke County Comprehensive Plan	Parke	40,000
Pulaski County CDC	PulaskiOnline.com	Pulaski	86,680
Southeastern Career Center	Ripley County Learning Network Virtual School	Ripley	150,000
Milroy Economic Development Committee	Milroy Main Street Enhancement	Rush	11,000
Lincolnland Economic Development Corp.	Spencer County Rural Development Learning Network	Spencer	125,000
Rural Services of Indiana, Inc.	Indiana Cooperative Development Center	St. Joseph	150,000
Purdue University	Advanced Life Sciences Teacher Development and Assessment Project	Tippecanoe	80,000
Purdue University	Indiana Beef Integrated Resource Management Program	Tippecanoe	86,311
Purdue University	Agriculture Innovation and Commercialization	Tippecanoe	100,000
Eastern Indiana Development District	Regional Agribusiness Development Specialist	Union	150,550

Union County Development Corporation	Establish Tourism Development Program in Union City	Union	26,000
Ivy Tech State College-Wabash Valley Region	Manufacturing Certification-Reducing the gap	Vigo	150,000
Warren County Local Economic Development Org.	The Warren County Economic Development Initiative	Warren	140,000